

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1450

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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DA(DALO-SMD) WASHDC

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: ASUP, MASS, XF

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: US/UNIFIL ASSIST LETTER 78-14

1. SUBJECT ASSIST LETTER IS QUOTED FOR YOUR ACTION.

BEGIN QUOTE 11 MAY 1978 DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS IN NAQOURA, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REQUEST THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING PREFABRICATED BUILDING UNITS. NEW PARAGRAPH AS YOU KNOW, NO BUDGETARY PROVISIONS WERE MADE FOR PROCUREMENT OF HARD-COVER ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES FOR THE FORCE. IT IS HOPED, THEREFORE, THAT SUCH REQUIREMENT MAY BE MET FROM VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBER STATES AT NO COST TO THE ORGANIZATION. THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING SUITABLE FACILITIES WOULD BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED. NEW PARAGRAPH THE SUBJECT BUILDINGS ARE REQUIRED MAINLY FOR OFFICE USE AND LIVING ACCOMMODATION. WHILE SIZES AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF AVAILABLE BUILDINGS ARE OF LESS IMPORTANCE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE UNITS ARE OF A TYPE THAT CAN BE EASILY ERECTED, AND RELOCATED IF REQUIRED,
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BY UNSKILLED STAFF. NEW PARAGRAPH BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN CONNEXION WITH THE ERECTION OF BUILDING UNITS PROVIDED FOR UNEF IN 1976 UNDER THE US DONATION OF 10 MILLION DOLLARS, THESE OR SIMILAR TYPE BUILDINGS ARE CONSIDERED UNSUITABLE FOR OUR CURRENT REQUIREMENT. I REMAIN, DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR, YOURS
SINCERELY, SIGNED GEORGE LANSKY, DIRECTOR FIELD OPERATIONS

SERVICE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES END QUOTE

2. UN DESIRES APPROXIMATELY FIFTY BUILDINGS TO BE ASSEMBLED IN THIS AREA. FOR SOME TIME UN-FOS (LANSKY) HAS BEEN AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE ONLY BUILDINGS IN USG (DOD) INVENTORY ARE THE BUTLER AND PASCOE TYPE. THE UN HAS CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THESE, AS IS INDICATED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF SUBJECT LETTER, BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY IN ASSEMBLING THEM. ONCE THE BUILDING IS ASSEMBLED, HOWEVER, THE UN FINDS THE BUILDING QUITE ACCEPTABLE.

3. UN-FOS STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS A PREFABRICATED BUILDING IN THE TRUE SENSE OF PREFABRICATION, I.E. PREASSEMBLED WALLS AND ROOFS REQUIRING ONLY CONNECTING BOLTS. UN-FOS IS IN POSSESSION OF THE NAMES OF COMMERCIAL FIRMS MANUFACTURING SUCH BUILDINGS AND IS ALSO IN POSSESSION OF SUCH INFORMATION AS COST, AVAILABILITY, SHIPPING LEAD TIMES, ETC.

4. ESTIMATED COST OF PURCHASING THE BUILDINGS, SHIPPING THEM VIA SURFACE AND ASSEMBLING THEM IS ROUGHLY REPEAT ROUGHLY \$750,000. LANSKY'S ASSERTION THAT QUOTE...NO BUDGETARY PROVISIONS WERE MADE FOR PROCUREMENT OF HARD-COVER ACCOMMODATION...UNQUOTE IS AT VARIANCE WITH REPORT OF ACABQ (A/S-8/4 17 APR 78), WHICH WAS ADOPTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION APRIL 21. PARA 13 OF SAID REPORT RECOMMENDED GA APPROVE \$3,000,000 FOR RENTAL, MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION OF PREMISES. UNGA ALSO APPROVED ACABQ RECOMMENDATION THAT QUOTE...SYG BE ALLOWED...TO TRANSFER CREDITS BETWEEN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE WITHIN TOTAL AMOUNTS APPROVED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNQUOTE (PARA 26), AND PROVIDED \$1,000,000 FOR CONTINGENCY EXPENDITURES (PARA 24). USUN CONSIDERS THAT SYG HAS AMPLE EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE PREFABRICATED UNITS AND NO JUSTIFICATION FOR PROVISION ON NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS EXISTS. EVEN IF THAT WERE NOT SO, SYG COULD SEEK SUCH AUTHORITY AT SOON-TO-BE-CONVENED TENTH SPECIAL SESSION AS PART OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNIFIL INCREMENT.

5. USUN RECOMMENDS IT BE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM LANSKY USG WILL NOT PROVIDE PRE-FABS ON A NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS FOR REASONS GIVEN IN PARA 4 ABOVE, SIMULTANEOUSLY NOTIFYING HIM OF TYPE UNITS AVAILABLE FROM USG (DOD) (PARA 2) ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS. LEONARD

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